

Donors January 1, 2015 to March 1, 2016

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CHARLOTTE LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 43, Charlotte, VT 05445

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# CHARLOTTE LAND TRUST



ESTABLISHED 1986

## REPORT TO OUR NEIGHBORS JANUARY 2015 TO MARCH 2016

Helping to Protect and Preserve the Rural,  
Agricultural Landscape of Charlotte



The Donegan Family on their Carpenter Road farm

**LETTER FROM THE BOARD**

Wherever you were today in Charlotte, you probably saw not only views of conserved land, but also the less obvious, but no less important, benefits. Whether it was a glimpse of wildlife, a farmer working his or her fields, or the intricate workings of a wetland or water course, these are all parts of our landscape that have been strengthened by years of commitment to conservation. We are pleased to be involved with this work and once again want to thank all of you who have supported the Charlotte Land Trust and conservation in Charlotte.

*The Charlotte Land Trust Board of Directors*

**CONSERVATION**

2015 began with the conservation of the Bidinger land in East Charlotte. The land had been leased for many years to the Bean family for use as part of their farm. The Beans bought these 73 acres from Pat Bidinger as part of the project. In conjunction with the sale of the property to the Beans, Pat sold a conservation easement to the Vermont Land Trust. The Charlotte Land Trust partnered with VLT on the project and oversaw the application for local funding from the Charlotte Conservation Fund. Once again, the Conservation Fund proved to be important to a successful conclusion by leveraging state and federal funds and by providing the final piece of the funding puzzle. Conservation of the Bidinger land by the Beans is a great example of how conservation can help meet the goals of landowners who need to recoup the equity in their land investment, while still helping farmers acquire land.

One of the newer techniques in conservation that is a particular help in getting young farmers on land is the Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV) clause in easements. Even conserved land in high land value towns such as Charlotte can be out of reach for young farmers who are just starting out. OPAV is a useful tool for keeping prices within reach.



*Charlotte Land Trust 2016 Board: Front: David Pill, David Watts, Lindsay Longe, Edd Merritt. Back: Mary Volk, Jane Lawlis, Frances Foster, Marty Illick. Missing: Kate Lampton, Jessie Price.*

Joe and Emily Donegan had been farming on the conserved Thibault farm in the northeast section of Charlotte and wished to purchase the land. OPAV helped make that possible although there was still a funding gap. The Charlotte Land Trust was able to donate the necessary funding to make the project happen with enhancements to the original easement. Non-project specific donations to CLT have enabled us to have funds available for just such a use.

**OUTREACH**

In early spring of 2015, CLT co-hosted with Audubon Vermont, a fascinating bird banding event on conserved land. The land has been managed for bird habitat and the success of that was evident in the variety and number of birds sighted. The event was of great interest to the participants and partnership outings such as this are something CLT hopes to do more frequently.

2015 marked the 20th anniversary of CLT's incorporation as a land trust and to celebrate we hosted a gathering in late fall. Our speaker was nationally recognized environmentalist, Bill McKibben. The evening was a tremendous success and certainly the largest event we've ever hosted, with over 200 in attendance.

**ORGANIZATION**

CLT has operated for most of its history as an all-volunteer organization and that continued in 2015. We also completed another year without a board chair and continued our system of rotating meeting

chairs. Our Organizational Assessment Action Plan continues to be the template from which we work and has served us well.

We continued work on updating and strengthening our operating policies and the protocols for our stewardship oversight of existing easements. CLT also continues to participate in a national easement defense insurance program, which requires us to meet high standards set by the Land Trust Alliance. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of board members with a variety of skills that make it possible to function well.

Laura Crandall resigned from the board in late 2015. Laura was a great asset to CLT and generously gave of her time and energy. We'll miss her but very much appreciate her tenure on the board.



**Thanks for your Support!**

Throughout the past year the Charlotte Land Trust promoted reauthorization of the Charlotte Conservation Fund, due for a vote on Town Meeting Day 2016. In the twenty years of the Fund's existence it has helped conserve 1687 acres. The \$1,397,951 expended from the Fund has leveraged \$6,653,189 in total project costs - a great return on our investment.

On Town Meeting Day the Fund was approved by an almost unanimous vote and will continue as a key piece of Charlotte conservation success. CLT appreciates the support for conservation shown by voters and looks forward to many more years of the success that the Fund makes possible.



*Bill McKibben speaking at the 2015 CLT Annual Meeting*

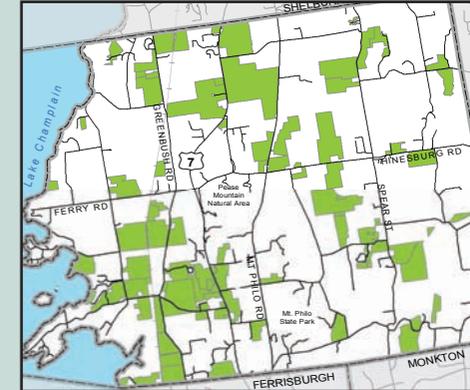
**2015 INCOME AND EXPENSES**

<b>INCOME</b>			
Contributions			
Unrestricted		\$26,495	
Interest and Dividends		1,126	
Annual Town Contribution		2,109	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$29,730</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Donegan/Thibault Easement		\$10,000	
Burrill Easement		33	
Outreach		3,075	
Stewardship		350	
<b>Program Subtotal</b>		<b>\$13,458</b>	
Fundraising		1,845	
Administration		2,394	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$17,697</b>	
Total Assets	1/1/2015	\$261,660	
Total Assets	12/31/2015*	273,694	
*Includes Stewardship Fund		\$100,038	

**SPECIAL THANKS:**

Logo: Family of Rockwell Kent  
 Layout: Janice Heilmann  
 Photos: Lee Krohn,  
 Al Karnatz,  
 Organic Valley Family Farms

**Town of Charlotte Conserved Land, March 2016**



*Easements with the Vermont Land Trust, Charlotte Land Trust, Lake Champlain Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy. Source: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission*

**YES!** I will help preserve the natural and rural beauty of Charlotte by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Charlotte Land Trust at the following level:

- Benefactor \$2500
- Friend \$100
- Supporter \$1000
- Contributor \$50
- Sustaining \$500
- Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following information and mail, along with your check, to Charlotte Land Trust, P.O. Box 43, Charlotte, VT 05445.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me to discuss: conservation of my land, donating development rights, or other planned giving opportunities.

I would like my gift to remain anonymous.  
[Info@CharlotteLandTrust.org](mailto:Info@CharlotteLandTrust.org)

*Bidinger Farm on Bingham Brook Road*